

SPECIFICATION

GAS-INSULATED SWITCHGEAR

Background of the Invention

This invention relates to a gas-insulated switchgear, in particular to a gas-insulated switchgear including a disconnecting switch and a grounding switch.

Figures 7 and 8 are schematic sectional views showing the internal structure of a gas-insulated switchgear of the conventional type that is structurally almost same as the one including a disconnecting switch that is bent at a right angle in the middle as shown in Figure 1 of Japanese Patent Laid-Open Hei 3-5014 and is equipped with a grounding switch as shown in Figure 3 of Japanese Published Unexamined Patent Application Sho 60-5711.

The gas-insulated switchgear shown in Figures 7 and 8 includes a tank 1 filled with an electrically insulating gas, a first and second conductors 2 and 3 disposed within the tank 1 and disposed at right angles to each other, a disconnecting switch or a disconnecter 4 for disconnecting the conductor 2 from the conductor 3, and a grounding switch 5 for grounding the first conductor 2 when the disconnecter 4 is opened as illustrated in the figures.

The disconnecter 4 is provided with a first fixed contact 7 connected through a connecting section 6 to the tip of the first conductor 2, a second fixed contact 9 connected through a connecting section 8 to the tip of the second conductor 3, a movable contact 10 disposed in the way in which it can move forward to reach to the second fixed contact 9 and bridge the gap between the first fixed contact 7 and the second fixed contact 9 and backward to withdraw from the second fixed contact 9, while always touching the inner surface of the first fixed contact 7, thus putting the first fixed contact 7 in or out of contact with the second fixed contact 9 and a first operating mechanism 11 that is disposed on the outer surface of the wall of the tank 1, extends as far as the inside of the connecting section 6 to be connected to the movable contact 10 and drives the movable contact 10. Both the connecting sections 6 and 8 are held on the tank 1 by an insulation support 12.

The grounding switch 5 is provided with a third fixed contact 13 connected through a connecting section 6 to the first conductor 2 like the first fixed contact 7 described above, a fourth fixed contact 14 disposed on the outer

surface of the wall of the tank 1, a second movable contact 15 disposed in the way in which it can move forward to reach to the third fixed contact 13 and bridge the gap between the third fixed contact 13 and the fourth fixed contact 14 and backward to withdraw from the third fixed contact 13, while always touching the inner surface of the fourth fixed contact 14, thus putting the fourth fixed contact 14 in or out of contact with the third fixed contact 13 and a second operating mechanism 16 that is disposed on the outer surface of the wall of the tank 1 and is connected to the second movable contact 15 for driving the movable contact 15. The tank 1 is provided with a plurality of manholes 17 for maintenance and inspection.

In disconnectors for gas-insulated switchgears of the conventional type, the electrodes at both the movable and fixed sides are held within the tank by insulation supports and the grounding switch is fastened to the tank in the way in which a movable contact can move to be connected to the electrodes. Gas-insulated switchgears including such disconnectors and grounding switches often suffer from a poor work efficiency in performing the setting-up of the parts that is made primarily on the tank as a consequence of a narrow space within the tank, and it is necessary to provide such switchgears with a peep hole for adjusting and checking the connection between electrodes. Further, conventional switchgears need to be provided with such parts as a shaft seal, fastening flanges and operation devices for connecting the disconnector and the grounding switch separately to their respective operating mechanisms disposed outside the tank, thus making it difficult to omit such parts.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention, that has been made to solve the problems described above, has as its object the provision of a gas-insulated switchgear in which structures for connecting to and supporting within the tank of switching devices including disconnector and grounding switch is simplified, and these devices are supported only by a single flange and mounted on the tank at a single position using the flange after being assembled outside the tank and introduced altogether into the tank as an assembly.

The gas-insulated switchgear according to the invention includes a tank filled with an electrically insulating gas, first and second conductors disposed within said tank, a disconnector for disconnecting said first conductor and said

second conductor from each other, and a grounding switch for grounding said first conductor when said disconnecter is in an open position. The disconnecter includes a first and second fixed electrode disposed on said first and second conductors, respectively, a bridging movable electrode that is always maintained in contact with said first electrode and that is slidably movable for contacting with and separating from said second fixed electrode to connect and disconnect said first and second fixed electrodes, and an operating mechanism for opening and closing operation of said movable electrode. The grounding switch includes said bridging movable electrode which is in contact with said first contact, and a third fixed grounding electrode disposed to said tank capable of contacting with said movable electrode when said movable electrode is separated from said second electrode. The operating mechanism is provided with an electrically insulating operating rod extending through said first fixed electrode in the direction of movement of said movable electrode.

The gas-insulated switchgear of the present invention includes a tank filled with an electrically insulating gas, first and second conductors disposed within said tank, and a disconnecter disconnecting said first conductor and said second conductor from each other. The disconnecter includes a first and second fixed electrode disposed on said first and second conductors, respectively, a bridging movable electrode for connecting and disconnecting said first and second fixed electrodes from each other, and an operating mechanism for opening and closing operation of said movable electrode. The movable electrode is always in contact with said first fixed electrode and capable of contacting with and separating from said second fixed electrode. The operating mechanism is provided with an electrically insulating operating rod extending through said first fixed electrode in the direction of movement of said movable electrode.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The present invention will become more readily apparent from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiments of the present invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is a schematic cross-sectional elevation showing the structure of a gas-insulated switchgear including a disconnecter and a grounding switch embodying the present invention;

Figure 2 is an illustration showing the changes in the position of

movable members of the gas-insulated switchgear of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is an illustration showing an assembly of devices to be accommodated within the gas-insulated switchgear of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a schematic cross-sectional elevation of another gas-insulated switchgear embodying the present invention;

Figure 5 is a schematic cross-sectional elevation of still another gas-insulated switchgear embodying the present invention;

Figure 6 is a schematic cross-sectional elevation of still another gas-insulated switchgear embodying the present invention;

Figure 7 is a schematic cross-sectional elevation showing an internal structure of a gas-insulated switchgear of the conventional type; and

Figure 8 is a schematic longitudinal cross-sectional elevation of the gas-insulated switchgear shown in Figure 7.

Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Embodiment 1.

Figure 1 shows the structures of a disconnecter and a grounding switch embodying the present invention being included in a gas-insulated switchgear. The gas-insulated switchgear includes a tank 1 filled with an electrically insulating gas, a first conductor 2a and a second conductor 2b, both being disposed within the tank 1, a disconnecter 22 for disconnecting the first conductor 2a from the second conductor 2b, and a grounding switch 23 for grounding the first conductor 2a when the disconnecter 22 is open. The first and second conductors 2a and 2b are disposed at right angles to each other to form a branched structure in which two branches are at right angles to each other. The tank 1 is an approximately T-shaped grounding vessel combining two cylindrical parts joined at right angles to each other, and the three ends 1a, 1b and 1c of the T-shaped structure are open. The first conductor 2a is introduced into the tank 1 through the open end 1a and the second conductor 2a is introduced into the tank 1a through the open end 1b.

The third open end 1c of the T-shaped tank 1 being provided at the edge thereof with an approximately circular fitting flange section 1d where substantially whole area of the open end of the cylindrical part of the tank 1 is uncovered. The open end 1c can be closed airtight when a disc-shaped flange 17 is fitted to the fitting flange section 1d with bolts or other suitable means. Insulating supports 7a and 7b in the form of a hollow cylinder are mounted on

the inner surface of the flange 17 through an adapter 6. A first electrode 21 is held between the insulation supports 7a and 7b. A second electrode 22a is supported by the insulation support 7a at the end opposite to the end holding the first electrode 21. The insulation supports 7a and 7b may be formed into either a single member or separate members. An operating mechanism 15 is held on the outer surface of the flange 17 together with a third electrode 23a through an insulation support 18. The third electrode 23a is grounded together with the operating mechanism 15. Thus, the first, second and third electrodes 21, 22a and 23a as well as the operating mechanism 15 are supported only by the flange 17 without being connected to the tank 1 or any other members. The electrodes 21, 22a and 23a being separated from each other are insulated individually and are aligned along the axis of the second conductor 2b. The sections of the disconnecter, the grounding switch and other members to be assembled on the flange 17 and accommodated in the tank 1 are rendered to be in a size smaller than that of the open end 1c of the tank 1 so that these members can be introduced altogether into the tank 1 as an assembly set up on the flange 17.

The first electrode 21 includes an electrode base 21b that is substantially hollow and circular and has a circular flange. The electrode base 21b is fitted to a connecting conductor 21a that is supported by the insulation supports 7a and 7b. The upper end of the cylindrical section of the electrode base 21b is provided with a contact 9 composed of a group of finger-shaped contact pieces biased inwardly by the ring spring, while the lower end of the cylindrical section is provided with a contact 11 composed of a similar group of such contact pieces. Both of the contacts 9 and 11 are covered by a shield conductor 4 for electric field relaxation that extends from the flange of the electric base 21b toward the center of the electrode 21 and is curved gently to give the first electrode 21 a cylindrical form as a whole with rounded upper and lower ends. The connecting conductor 21a of the first electrode 21 is connected to the tip of the first conductor 2a through a contact 3a composed of a ring spring and a group of finger-shaped contact pieces. A shield 3c for electric field relaxation is disposed around the contact 3a and a shield 13 for electric field relaxation is disposed around the section of the connecting conductor 21a opposite to the side connected to the first conductor 2a.

The second electrode 22a includes an approximately disc-shaped connecting conductor 5 supported by the insulation support 7a, a contact 10

mounted on the inner surface of the connecting conductor 5, a shield 10a shielding the contact 10, a contact 3b mounted on the outer surface of the connecting conductor 5, and a shield 3d shielding the contact 3b. The contacts 10 and 3b are contacts composed of a ring spring and a group of finger-shaped contact pieces, similar to the contacts 9 and 11. The second conductor 2b is connected at the tip thereof to the contact 3b disposed outside the second electrode 22a.

The third electrode 23a includes a hollow connecting conductor 12a that extends from the outer surface of the flange 17 passing through an opening 17a formed in the middle of the flange 17 as far as the inside of the tank 1, a contact 12 mounted on the connecting conductor 12a and composed of a ring spring and a group of finger-shaped contact pieces, like the contacts 9 and 11, and a shield 12b shielding the contact 12. The third electrode 23a is grounded.

The operating mechanism 15 described above is connected to the third electrode 23a, disposed outside the tank 1, and fitted to the tank 1 by the flange 17 through the insulation support 18. The operating mechanism 15 comprises a casing 16 supported by the insulation support 18, a link mechanism 15a disposed within the casing 16 and driven to cause or break linking by an unillustrated outside driving unit, and an operation rod 14 one end thereof being connected to the link mechanism 15a and the other end thereof extending across the connecting conductor 12a and the contact 12 of the third electrode 23a. The operation rod 14 is connected at the end extending across the third electrode 23a thereof to a movable contact 8 in the shape of a rod that moves in the line of axis so that it causes or breaks an electric linking between the second and third electrodes. The axes of the second conductor 2b, the second electrode 22a, the first electrode 21, the third electrode 23a, the movable contact 8 and the operation rod 14 are aligned.

In a gas-insulated switchgear according to the present invention, the grounding switch 23 includes the second fixed contact 11 of the first electrode 21, the fixed contact 12 of the third electrode 23a which is mounted on the tank 1 and through which the operating rod 14 extends therethrough, and the bridging movable contact 8 slidably connecting between the first and the third electrodes 21 and 23a when the movable contact 8 is in a position bridging these electrodes 21 and 23a. The operating mechanism 15 is provided with the operating rod 14 that is permitted to extend through the second fixed

contact 11 of the first electrode 21 in the line of the direction of the movement of the movable contact 8.

Figures 2a, 2b and 2c show the switching sequence of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 of the gas-insulated switchgear of Figure 1. Figure 2a illustrates the disconnecter 22 in opening and the grounding switch 23 in closing wherein the movable contact 8 is bridging the gap between the fixed contacts 11 and 12. The status of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 shifts from that in Figure 2a to Figure 2b when the movable contact 8 being driven by an outside driving unit through a link 15a of the operating mechanism 15 and the insulation operation rod 14 moves forward to be contained within the shield 4 of the first electrode 21, causing the opening of both the disconnecter 22 or the grounding switch 23. When the movable contact 8 moves further to the position in which it bridges the gap between the contacts 9 and 10 as shown in Figure 2c, the disconnecter 22 is closed. Thus, through the shift in the position of the movable contact 8 among the three points, it is possible to govern the switching action of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23. A gas-insulated switchgear of this structure is highly advantageous in achieving cost savings because the switchgear wherein the first electrode 21 possessing fixed contacts 9 and 11 is shared by the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 needs a smaller number of movable contacts, insulation rods, outside operating mechanism and other parts, a smaller space due to a reduction in the number of parts to be accommodated, and a lesser shaft sealing.

Figure 3 illustrates an arrangement of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 in the gas-insulated switchgear shown in Figure 1. As shown in Figures 1, 2a or 2c, the flange 17 for holding the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23, shaft seals and other members are concentrated on the adapter 6 disposed on the flange 17 to finish, outside the tank 1, the preparation of a core assembly and the adjustment of the centers among electrodes. It is essential that the core assembly is rendered to be in a size smaller than that of the open end 1c of the tank 1 so that the devices to be accommodated can be introduced altogether into the tank 1. The adapter 6 is fitted to the flange 17 of the tank 1 to finish the setting-up of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 in the tank 1. This procedure of setting-up eliminates the need for forming a manhole for maintenance and inspection in the tank because it is not necessary to perform within the tank inter-electrode

adjustment or connection of insulation rods.

Being structured like this, a gas-insulated switchgear embodying the present invention has such advantageous as 1) a smaller number of parts as a result of the sharing of parts by the disconnecter and the grounding switch, 2) improved work efficiency due to the completion of a core assembly outside the tank as a consequence of gathering together on one side of holding members and shaft leading sections and 3) a lower tank manufacturing cost due to a smaller need for disposing flanges to sections onto which devices are fastened, or those for shaft sealing and manholes for maintenance/inspection.

Embodiment 2

Figure 4 illustrates the structure of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 in a gas-insulated switchgear shown as another embodiment of the present invention. While the gas-insulated switchgear shown as embodiment 1 in Figure 1 has the insulation support 7b for insulation among the electrodes and the insulation adapter 18 as separate parts fastened individually to the flange 17, the gas-insulated switchgear in this embodiment has an insulation support 19 (the member equivalent to the insulation support 7b in embodiment 1) as a part formed into a single piece that passes through an opening 17a of the flange 17 and extends across the flange 17 as far as the outside of the flange 17. In the illustrated embodiment, the end of the insulation support 19 reaching to the outside of the flange 17 (the lower end in the Figure) is fastened to the outer surface of the flange 17 and sealed airtight, and the operating mechanism 15 is mounted on this end of the flange 17. The gas-insulated switchgear of Figure 4 embodies a structure attaining a further reduction in the number of parts while retaining the advantages of the switchgear shown as embodiment 1.

Embodiment 3

Figure 5 illustrates the structure of the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23 in a gas-insulated switchgear shown as still another embodiment of the present invention. The gas-insulated switchgear in this embodiment is provided with an electrode 24 that has a single contact (contact 20) in the middle section of the shield 4, different from the gas-insulated switchgear shown as embodiment 1 in Figure 1 that is provided with the electrode 21 that has two contacts 9 and 11. The movable contact 8 is therefore in contact with the contact 20 in any position in its movement back and forth to cause or break a bridge over a gap between fixed contacts, and the

contact 20 of the electrode 24 serves as contact commonly for the disconnecter 22 and the grounding switch 23. The gas-insulated switchgear of Figure 5 embodies a structure attaining a further reduction in the number of parts while retaining the advantages of the switchgears shown as embodiments 1 and Embodiment 4

Figure 6 illustrates the structure of a gas-insulated switchgear shown as still another embodiment of the present invention. The gas-insulated switchgear in this embodiment 6 differs from the one shown as embodiment 1 in Figure 1 in that it includes no grounding switch. Thus, the first electrode 21b connected to the tip of the first conductor 2a of the switchgear in Figure 6 is provided with only the contact 9 for the disconnecter 22. Naturally, the gas-insulated switchgear in this Figure has no contact equivalent to the contact 11 in Figure 1 and no electrode equivalent to the third electrode 23a on the flange 17. Because the movable contact 8 in Figure 6 is to cause or break a bridge over the gap between the first electrode 21b and the second electrode 22a only, the strokes given by the operating mechanism 15 are shorter than those given by the equivalent mechanism in Figure 1.

The disconnecter 22, the operating mechanism 15 and other devices around the disconnecter and the operating mechanism of the gas-insulated switchgear of Figure 6 are mounted on the tank 1 through the flange 17 and they are in a size small enough to pass through the open end 1c of the tank 1. Thus, like the embodiments described above, this embodiment has such advantages as a high work efficiently as a result of assembling outside the tank 1 and the elimination of the need for performing such works as inter-electrode adjustment and insulation rod connection inside the tank 1 and for manholes for such works and inspection.